

— Williams-Cox House  
HA 1895

This circa 1905 two-story frame house is located on the west side of Main Street in Cardiff, Maryland, and is presently the residence and beauty shop of Dorothy Cox. A substantial late Victorian vernacular structure, this house is of the same plan as the adjacent Roberts-Lloyd House. Originally, the town lot was one of several parcels in the immediate area owned by Richard Roberts. Richard Roberts, co-founder of Roberts and Wilhelm which evolved to Richard Roberts and Son, operated the metal foundry and machine shop on the land below and adjoining this Main Street lot. It is believed that he had the house built, but it is not known for whom .

— As owners of the metal foundry in Cardiff , the Roberts were a prominent family in town. Identified on and listed among the commercial concerns of the 1888 Delta map, the Roberts and Wilhelm metal foundry had a distinct and important place in the inter-workings of the town's slate industry, building cranes and operating machinery for the quarries.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Williams-Cox House

## 2. Location

street & number 1636 Main Street N/A not for publicationcity, town Cardiff    vicinity of    congressional district 5thstate Maryland county Harford

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dorothy Coxstreet & number same telephone no.: (410)452-8109city, town Cardiff state and zip code MD, 21024

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber GRG771street & number 20 W. Courtland Place folio 79city, town Bel Air state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title nonedate    federal    state    county    local   depository for survey records   city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. HA 189E

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This two-story frame house is located on the west side of Main Street in Cardiff, Maryland. The house is two bays wide by three bays deep with a one-story porch on the eastern, main facade. The slate-shingle gable roof has a north-south ridge that parallels Main Street and has a centrally located chimney. As typical of irregularly massed Victorian era structures, this house is asymmetrical, with a projecting cross gable capping a two-story three-paneled bay window on the north bay of the main facade. The basement and first-story shed roof projection runs the length of the building's rear wall creating additional space, in this case for the owner's beauty shop. The foundation is coursed slate, a feature which is unique to this slate quarrying region.

The bay window of the main facade has narrow double 1/1 sash windows in the upper and lower middle panel with single windows flanking in the side panels. (All windows in the house are of the 1/1 sash variety.) The remaining southern bay is articulated by the main entrance and an aligned window on the second story. Interrupted by a gable over the entrance, the slate-shingle shed roof of the front porch is supported by decorative wrought iron.

As characteristic of the era in which it was built, the house is replete with windows. The north side lower story has a single window in the east bay and a double window in the west. All three bays of the upper story have single windows and another centered at the roof gable. The south side has windows in the upper and lower west bays.

Some transitional Victorian decoration carries through in this early twentieth century house in the form of a cut-out gable finish in the projecting cross gable. Black shutters accent most windows except the bay and gable windows. The interior is modestly decorated with detail and woodwork. Details include a decorated handrail and squared newel post for the steep stairs, a french door between the foyer and parlor, and dark, heavy wood molding.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. HA 1895

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This circa 1905 house is presently the residence and beauty shop of Dorothy Cox. A substantial late Victorian vernacular structure, this house is of the same plan as the adjacent Roberts-Lloyd House. Originally, the town lot was one of several parcels in the immediate area owned by Richard Roberts. Richard Roberts, co-founder of Roberts and Wilhelm which evolved to Richard Roberts and Son, operated the metal foundry and machine shop on the land below and adjoining this Main Street lot. It is believed that he had the house built, but it is not known for whom it was built.

As owners of the metal foundry in Cardiff, the Roberts were a prominent family in town. Identified on and listed among the commercial concerns of the 1888 Delta map, the Roberts and Wilhelm metal foundry had a distinct and important place in the inter-workings of the town's slate industry. The metal foundry supplied invaluable components to the slate quarry industry, building cranes and operating machinery for the quarries. (The original site as identified on the Delta 1888 map is south of the present site established in 1890.) The foundry maintained its significance throughout the operating years of the various slate quarries and the Maryland Green Marble quarry. Now in its fifth generation of family ownership under Gary Thompson, R. Roberts and Son continues to operate in metal fabrication. An interesting aside: Robert Roberts, son of Richard Roberts, was responsible for the renaming of South Delta to Cardiff in 1900.<sup>1</sup>

Originally owned by Thomas Hawkins (farmer) in a patented land grant known as "Hawkins Chance", this land was part of the tract sold by the Hawkins family to Rowland Parry, a Welsh quarry owner who operated one of the first prominent commercial quarries in the area. It was Parry who exhibited Peach Bottom slate in the London Crystal Palace exposition in 1850, winning it international recognition as the world's finest slate. "Hawkins Chance" was divided and sold in pieces, passing mostly through the hands of Parry's relatives and countrymen in various forms. The parcel of 17 acres that created this lot was sold to the South Delta Land Company in 1896 through an Equity Case on behalf of Parry's great niece. As with this house, most of the structures at the north end of Cardiff were built around the turn of the century, after this subdivision took place.

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<sup>1</sup>As mentioned in conversation with Donald Robinson, April 14, 1995, and verified by Gloria R. Thompson.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA 1895

See additional Sheets

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .115 acresQuadrangle name DeltaQuadrangle scale 24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 194 on tax map 5, as provided in accompanying map

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
none			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dianne Klairorganization Harford County Planning and Zoning date September 1995street & number 220 S. Main Street telephone (410) 638-3103city or town Bel Air state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
CHECKED  
100 COPY RETURNED  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-1000  
JAN 1996

## WILLIAMS-COX HOUSE

## Title Search

GRG 771/79	February 29, 1968	Grantor: Zero, Inc. Grantee: Dorothy Cox Granted: town lot, 23 sq perches, and house
GRG 771/76	February 29, 1968	Grantor: Kenneth C. and Dorothy D. Cox Grantee: Zero, Inc. Granted: Cardiff town lot of 23 sq perches with house and another lot outside of Cardiff
GRG 402/563	September 26, 1953	Grantor: Viola J. Williams (widow) et al. Grantee: Kenneth C. and Dorothy D. Cox Granted: town lot and house
GRG 391/365	March 26, 1953	Grantor: Viola J. Williams (widow) Grantee: Roberta W. Morris and Norma W. Holland So as to be seized, improvements mentioned.
DGW 183/269	July 30 1923	Grantor: Robert L. and Ellen Roberts et al Grantee: John W. and Viola J. Williams Improvements mentioned.
DGW 183/275	July 27, 1923	Grantor: Philip Close (trustee, as appointed in Equity Case DWG 120/350, Robert L. Roberts v. William J. Roberts) Grantee: Robert L. Roberts Granted: All assets of partnership, to include property and foundry machinery
WSF 104/455	July 2, 1901	Grantor: Richard and Ann Roberts Grantee: Robert L. Roberts Granted: 1/4 interest in land described in deed ALJ 68/47 and all land described in 95/224
WSF 95/224	January 21, 1899	Grantor: South Delta Land Company Grantee: Richard Roberts Granted: Several lots fronting Main Street, abutting foundry site/lots.
WSF 88/282	May 26, 1896	Grantor: Stevenson A. Williams (trustee, as appointed in Equity Case WSF 41/351 Elizabeth J. Parry v. Margaret Parry et al.) Grantee: South Delta Land Company (via James Poff, agent) Granted: a part of the lands described in equity case (less than 19 acres) to be subdivided into town building lots

Plat book DGW 2/64	1891	Survey plat of lots to be subdivided, South Delta Land Company
Will Records WS 10/440	September 12, 1888	John Parry, quarryman, bequeaths: To his daughter, Elizabeth, the house in which he resides and the 84' by 400' lot on which it stands. To his son, Richard Parry, all his remaining lands, approximately 17 acres To each of his children, Mary Williams, John, Richard, Jacob, and Elizabeth Parry 1/6 of his shares in the Welsh Slate Company of Harford County.
ALJ 28/407	May 14, 1873	Grantor: Hugh E. Hughes Grantee: John Parry Granted: 10 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$1050.00
ALJ 28/407	May 14, 1873	Grantor: Humphrey R. and Jane H. Lloyd Grantee: John Parry Granted: 2 acres of "Hawkins Chance" with improvements, on west side of Main St. (same as ALJ 25/346) for \$1200.00
ALJ 25/346	April 11, 1871	Grantor: Richard Hughes and wife Grantee: Jane H. Lloyd (daughter) Granted: 2 parcels of "Hawkins Chance", 1). 5 acres 105 perches and 2). 2 acres 1 perch (see ALJ 9/29)
ALJ 9/30	May 29, 1857	Grantor: Richard Hughes et al. Grantee: John and Ellin Parry Granted: 8 acres 35 perches of "Hawkins Chance" for \$500.00
ALJ 9/29	May 29, 1857	Grantor: John Parry Grantee: Richard Hughes Granted: 2 parcels of "Hawkins Chance", 1). 5 acres 105 perches and 2). 2 acres 1 perch
HDG 36/424	July 27, 1850	Grantor: Ro(w)land and Anne Parry Grantee: John Parry and Richard Hughes Granted: 3 1/2 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$350.00
HDG 36/215	February 5, 1850	Grantor: Rowland Perry Grantee: John Perry and Richard Hughes Granted: 12 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$600.00

HDG 36/212	January 22, 1850	Grantor: Archibald A. and Nancy Hawkins Grantee: Rowland Perry (Parry) Granted: part of "Hawkins Chance" for \$850.00, acreage unknown
HDG 34/492	February 9, 1849	Grantor: Edward Proctor et al. Grantee: Archibald A. Hawkins Granted: "Hawkins Chance", being part of Thomas Hawkins landholdings; 74 acres 5 perches
HD 14/336	August 3, 1831	Grantor: Isaac Hawkins, heir to Thomas Hawkins Grantee: Thomas Proctor, heir to Edward Proctor Granted: The eighth part of land tracts "Hawkins Chance", "Williams Birthright", Mount Pleasant", and "Montgomerys Delight" . The four tracts contain 188 acres total. No mention of "eighth part" acreage.
Land Tract, Patented	After March 1774, when Harford est.	"Hawkins Chance", tract of 74 acres 5 perches granted to Thomas Hawkins. Located on the Maryland and Pennsylvania line at the north end of present day Cardiff. Divided, sold, and reworked often.



## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Common Houses in America's Small Towns: The Atlantic Seaboard to the Mississippi Valley,  
John A. Jakle, Robert W. Bastian, and Douglas K. Meyer. 1989.

Land Records, Harford County Courthouse.

Delta Centennial, A souvenir book from the 1953 centennial celebration which was organized by the  
Delta-Cardiff Fire Company.

Conversation with Ms. Dorothy Cox, August 31, 1995.

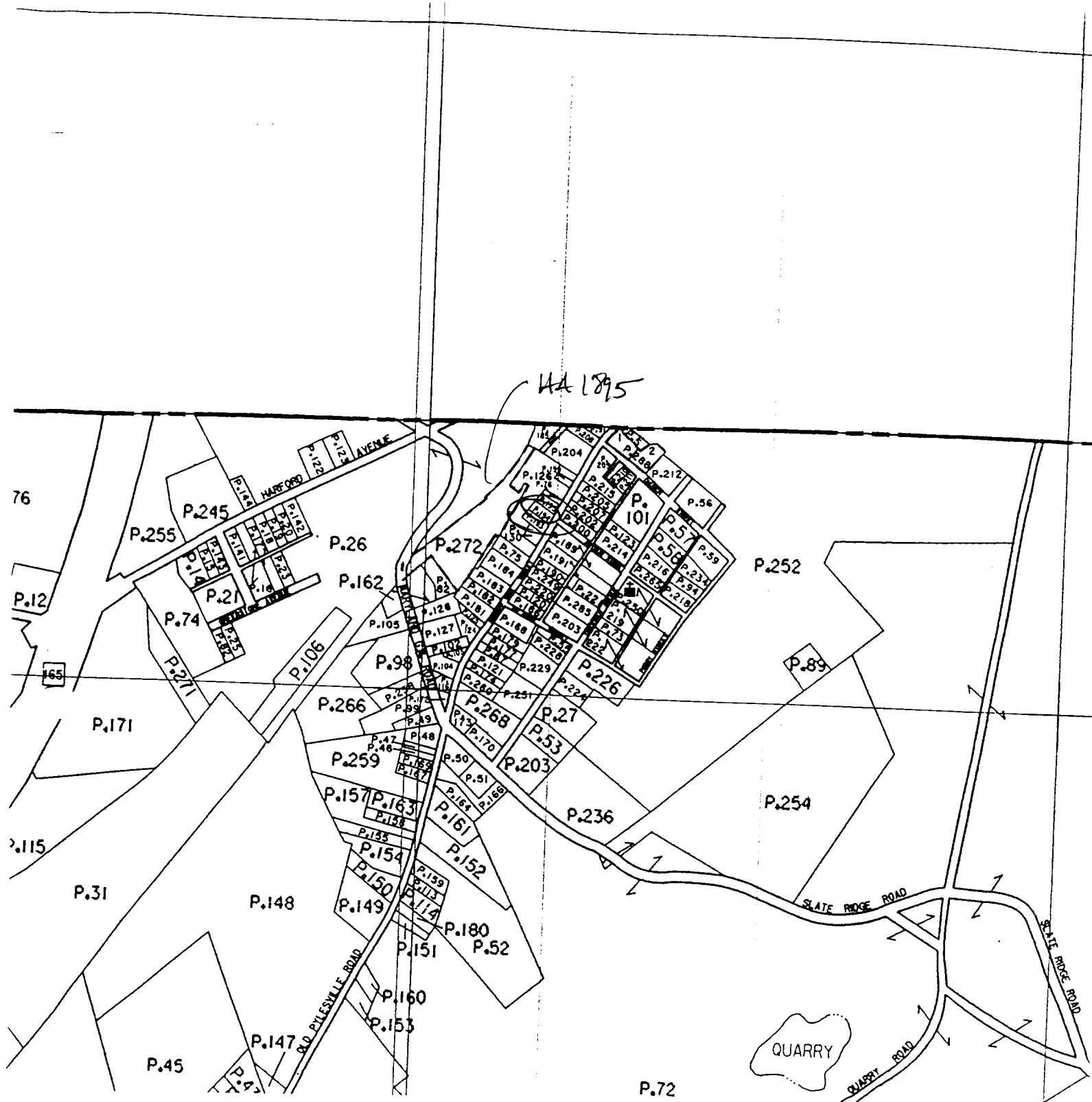
Conversation with Mrs. Darcy Lloyd, April 11, 1995.

Conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Thompson, May 2, 1995.

Conversations with Mrs. Marion Scaborough, June 20, June 22, July 25, and August 1, 1995  
regarding Parry family history.

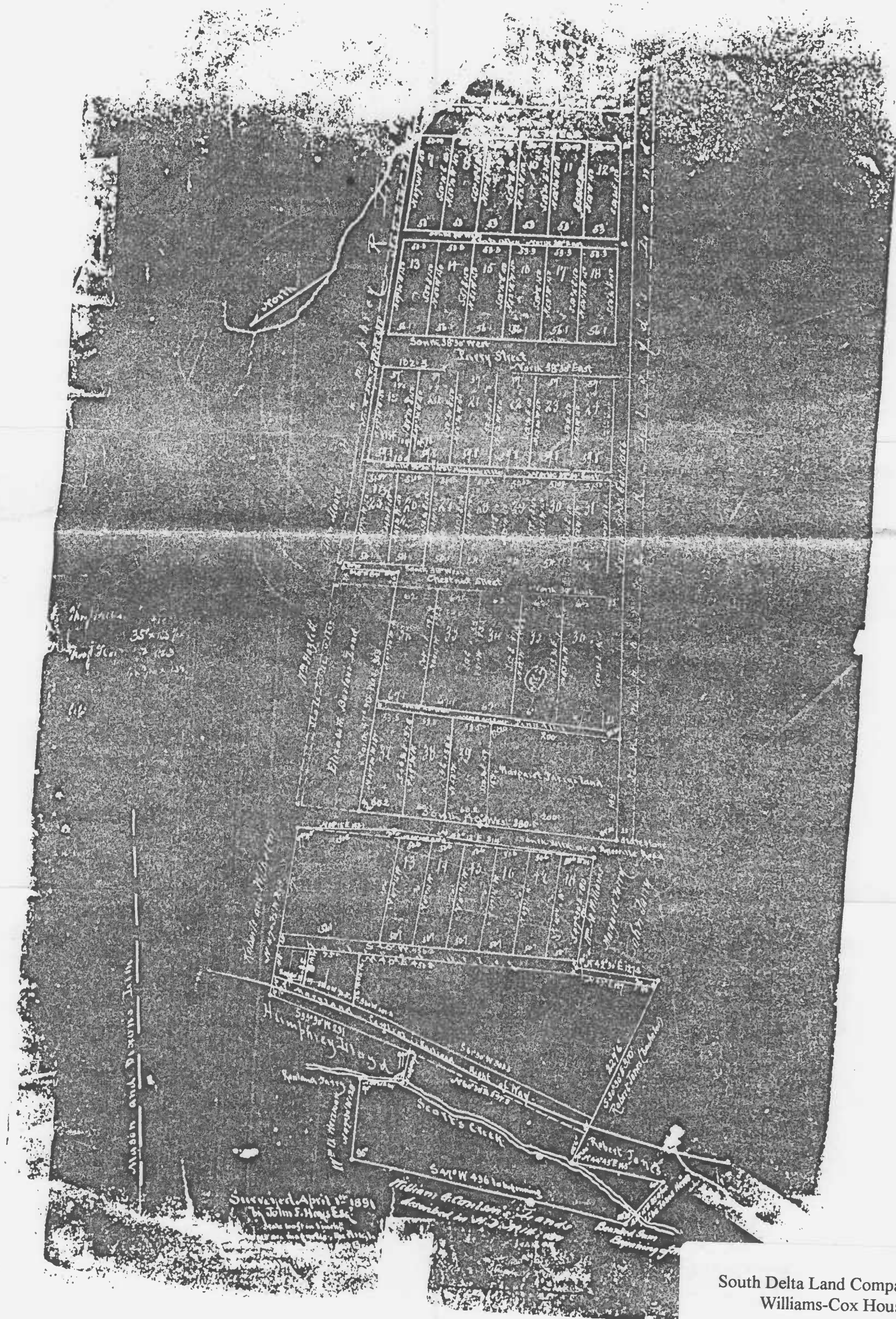
Harford County Historical Society Archives.

Various conversations with area residents for a contextual history of the inventory structures.



Williams-Cox House  
Parcel 194, Tax Map 5

PLAT of SOUTH DELTA LAND COMPANY!  
1891



South Delta Land Company Plat  
Williams-Cox House

HA-1895





HA 1895

Williams - Crabhouse

Hartford County, Maryland

Transect Area

3/95

Maryland SHPC

Chris Weeks, Hartford County Dept of Planning & Economic  
view Southwest from main street

1/1